

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
6 May 2005 (06.05.2005)

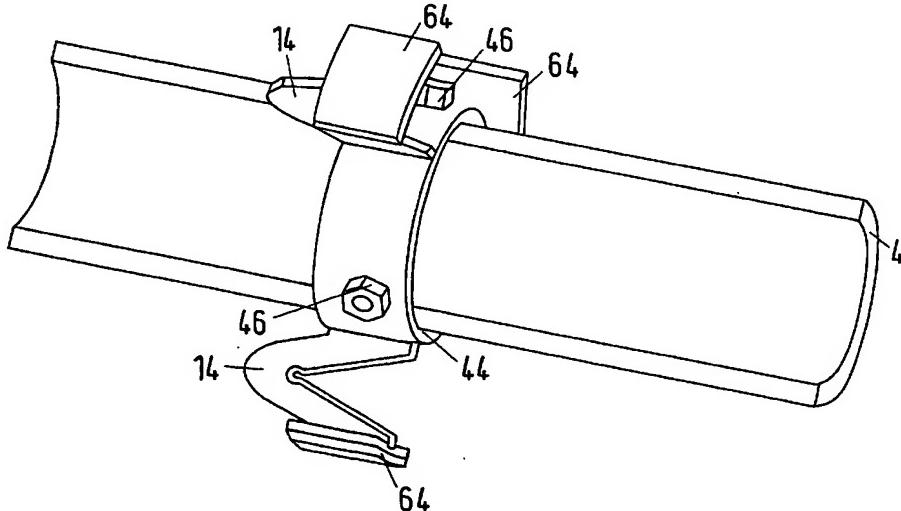
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/040706 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **F27D 3/18**
- (21) International Application Number: **PCT/EP2004/011699**
- (22) International Filing Date: 16 October 2004 (16.10.2004)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
2003905978 21 October 2003 (21.10.2003) AU
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- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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(54) Title: A PIPE SEGMENT FOR A TRANSFER LINE FOR TRANSPORTING HOT PARTICULATE MATERIAL



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a pipe segment including an outer (2) and an inner pipe section (4), with the inner pipe section being positioned within the outer pipe section, and a support means (44, 14, 64) supporting the inner pipe section in relation to the outer pipe section so that the inner pipe section can expand axially relative to the outer pipe section in response to temperature changes in the material being transported in the pipe segment. Furthermore, the present invention refers to a transfer line for transporting hot particulate material, such as iron ore fines, in a carrier gas, including a plurality of these pipe segments and to a process for transporting hot particulate material in a carrier gas in a direct smelting plant for producing molten metal from a metalliferous feed material, in particular between a pretreatment unit and solid delivery means in the form of lances for injecting the material into a direct smelting vessel.

WO 2005/040706 A1



Published:

— *with international search report*

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